WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. Apparatus for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

a support member in the seat having an integral air flow path, the air flow path having an inlet for receiving temperature conditioned air therein, and further having an outlet with an integral plurality of air channels proximate an outer surface of the support member;

the outer surface of the support member connecting to a porous member which substantially covers the outer surface area of the support member, the porous member having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels; and

a seat covering substantially encapsulating the porous member to the support member.

2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the support member comprises a fiberglass reinforced plastic.

3. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the support member comprises a foam.

4. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the support member comprises a cellular spongy material.

5. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the porous member comprises a first porous member and a second porous member, the outer surface of the support member connecting to the first porous member which substantially covers the outer surface area of the support member, the first porous member having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels; and the second porous member substantially encapsulating the first porous member.

6. An apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein the first porous member is a substantially mono-directional porous member.

7. An apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein the first porous member is a substantially stiff and porous plastic screen material.

8. An apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein the second porous member is a substantially multi-directional porous member.

9. An apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein the second porous member is a substantially mono-directional flexible porous member.

10. An apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein the mono-directional flexible porous member comprises a plurality of substantially mono-directional channels.

11. An apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein the second porous member comprises a reticulated foam.

12. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that compress the seat covering into the porous member such that air is able to pass from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

13. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that contact the porous member such that air is able to exit from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

14. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the seat covering comprises an air permeable material.

15. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the seat covering comprises an air permeable fabric.

16. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the seat covering comprises a perforated leather.

17. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising a backrest portion and a sitting portion.

18. Apparatus for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

a resilient cushion forming a support member in the seat having an integral air flow path, the air flow path having an inlet for receiving temperature conditioned air therein, and further having an outlet with an integral plurality of air channels proximate an outer surface of the cushion; and

the outer surface of the cushion connecting to a flexible seat covering substantially encapsulating the outer surface area of the cushion, the flexible seat covering having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels.

19. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the resilient cushion comprises a cellular spongy material.

20. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the resilient cushion comprises a foam.

21. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 further comprising a flexible porous member,the outer surface of the cushion connecting to the flexible porous member which substantially covers the outer surface area of the cushion, the flexible porous member having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels, wherein the flexible porous member is sandwiched between the cushion and the flexible seat covering.

22. An apparatus as defined in claim 21 wherein the flexible porous member is a substantially multi-directional porous member.

23. An apparatus as defined in claim 21 wherein the flexible porous member is a substantially mono-directional flexible porous member.

24. An apparatus as defined in claim 23 wherein the mono-directional flexible porous member comprises a plurality of substantially mono-directional channels.

25. An apparatus as defined in claim 21 wherein the flexible porous member comprises a reticulated foam.

26. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that compress the seat covering into the seat cushion such that air is able to pass from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

27. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that contact the seat cushion such that air is able to exit from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

28. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the seat covering comprises an air permeable material.

29. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the seat covering comprises an air permeable fabric.

30. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the seat covering comprises a perforated leather.

31. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 further comprising a backrest portion and a sitting portion.

32. Apparatus for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

a cellular spongy material cushion forming a support member in the seat having an integral air flow path, the air flow path having an inlet for receiving temperature conditioned air therein, and further having an outlet with an integral plurality of air channels proximate an outer surface of the cushion;

the outer surface of the cushion connecting to a reticulated foam which substantially covers the outer surface area of the cushion, the reticulated foam having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels; and

an air permeable seat covering substantially encapsulating the reticulated foam to the cushion.

33. An apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that compress the seat covering into the flexible porous member such that air is able to pass from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

34. An apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that contact the flexible porous member such that air is able to exit from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

35. Apparatus for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

a foam cushion forming a support member in the seat having an integral air flow path, the air flow path having an inlet for receiving temperature conditioned air therein, and further having an outlet with an integral plurality of air channels proximate an outer surface of the cushion;

the outer surface of the cushion incorporating a flexible substantially honeycomb channel arrangement that covers at least a portion of the outer surface area of the cushion, the honeycomb channel arrangement having an interface with the integral plurality of air channels; and

an air permeable seat covering substantially encapsulating the honeycomb channel arrangement to the cushion.

36. An apparatus as defined in claim 35 wherein the honeycomb channel arrangement comprises a substantially mono-directional flexible porous member.

37. An apparatus as defined in claim 36 wherein the mono-directional flexible porous member comprises a plurality of substantially mono-directional channels.

38. An apparatus as defined in claim 35 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that compress the seat covering into the flexible porous member such that air is able to pass from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.

39. An apparatus as defined in claim 35 wherein the seat covering incorporates a plurality of stitched valleys that contact the flexible porous member such that air is able to exit from the cushion outlet to the formed valleys.